

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

James F. Carlin, Jr., Acting Lead Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: jcarlin@usgs.gov

Amy M. Baumgartner (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7968
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: abaumgartner@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

LEAD IN FEBRUARY 2006

Domestic mine production, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 33,300 metric tons (t) in February, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was a decline of 9% compared with production in January 2006 and an increase of 7% compared with that in February 2005.

Secondary refinery production (95,100 t) increased by 5% from that in January 2006, while reported consumption (124,000 t) remained essentially unchanged. When compared with that of February 2005, secondary refinery production was the same, while reported consumption rose by 6%.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average North American producer price in February increased by 13% from that of the previous month to 76.86 cents per pound. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price rose to \$1,276.20 per metric ton, about a 2% increase compared with the January average price. The producer price and the LME price were up about 27% and 31%, respectively, when compared with the February 2005 average prices.

In China, Huludao Zinc Industry announced that it expected to start its new 30,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) lead refinery by

the end of June and hoped to produce 15,000 t of refined lead in 2006. Construction of the lead refinery was tied to a 60,000-t/yr expansion of its zinc refinery, also scheduled for startup at the end of June, that would boost the company's total zinc product capacity to 390,000 t/yr from the current 330,000 t/yr. Inclusion of the lead refinery was to allow the company to access supplies of concentrates that contain both lead and zinc (Platts Metals Week, 2006).

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in February, under the Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Lead-005, was 260 t, with an approximate value of \$346,000 (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006).

References Cited

- Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006, Stockpile announces lead BOA sales for February 2006: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, March 6, 1 p.
Platts Metals Week, 2006, Huludao Zinc to complete expansion, make lead by June: Platts Metals Week, v. 77, no. 12, March 20, p. 1, 12.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2005		2006		
	Year	January - February	January	February	January - February
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	427,000 ^r	62,200 ^r	36,700 ^r	33,300	70,000
Primary refinery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,110,000 ^p	185,000 ^r	88,100 ^r	92,900	181,000
Estimated	11,200 ^p	1,870 ^r	890 ^r	938	1,830
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000 ^p	2,500	1,250	1,250	2,500
Total secondary	1,140,000 ^p	189,000 ^r	90,200 ^r	95,100	185,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Primary refineries	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary smelters and consumers	61,400 ^p	66,600	59,300	62,800	62,800
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	29	2 ^r	--	NA	-- ²
Refined metal	298,000	17,000 ^r	30,700	NA	30,700 ²
Consumption:					
Reported	1,460,000 ^p	244,000 ^r	121,000 ^r	120,000	240,000
Undistributed ^c	45,300 ^p	7,540 ^r	3,730 ^r	3,710	7,440
Total	1,510,000 ^p	251,000 ^r	124,000 ^r	124,000	248,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	390,000	25,000	19,900	NA	19,900 ²
Bullion	198	42	25	NA	25 ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	64,600	12,300	5,110	NA	5,110 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,270	249	44	NA	44 ²
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	67,300	9,020	8,240	NA	8,240 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	61.03	60.70	68.30	76.86	72.58

^cEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes data for January only; February data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	LME		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2005:				
February	60.73	977.03	517.74	1.887105
November	60.86	1,017.91	586.72	1.734910
December	64.78	1,123.51	643.55	1.745805
Year	61.03	975.98	537.10	1.817133
2006:				
January	68.30	1,255.70	710.00	1.768590
February	76.86	1,276.20	730.09	1.747995

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks January 31, 2006 ¹	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks February 28, 2006
Battery-lead	23,200	98,900	99,200	23,000
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	3,480	4,050	4,190	3,340
Total	26,700	103,000	103,000	26,300
Percent change from preceding month	XX	5.7	6.1	-1.5

¹Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap not elsewhere classified.

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN FEBRUARY 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	69,100	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	23,300	(2)	(2)
Other ³	493	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	92,900	147	352

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other." -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

³Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2005		2006		
	January - December ^p	January - February ^r	January	February	January - February
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	60,000	10,000	6,370 ^r	5,890	12,300
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	3,700	617	384	381	765
Cable covering, power and communication and cabling lead, building construction	6,840	1,140	439 ^r	707	1,150
Casting metals	17,900	2,990	1,540 ^r	1,540	3,070
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	32,700	5,460	2,600 ^r	2,480	5,090
Solder	7,130	1,190	661	538	1,200
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,280,000	213,000	104,000 ^r	104,000	208,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	2,210	368	165 ^r	152	318
Total metal products	1,410,000	235,000	116,000 ^r	116,000	232,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	56,400	9,400	4,250 ^r	4,250	8,490
Total reported	1,460,000	244,000	121,000 ^r	120,000	240,000
Undistributed ^c	45,300	7,540	3,730 ^r	3,710	7,440
Grand total	1,510,000	251,000	124,000 ^r	124,000	248,000

^cEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

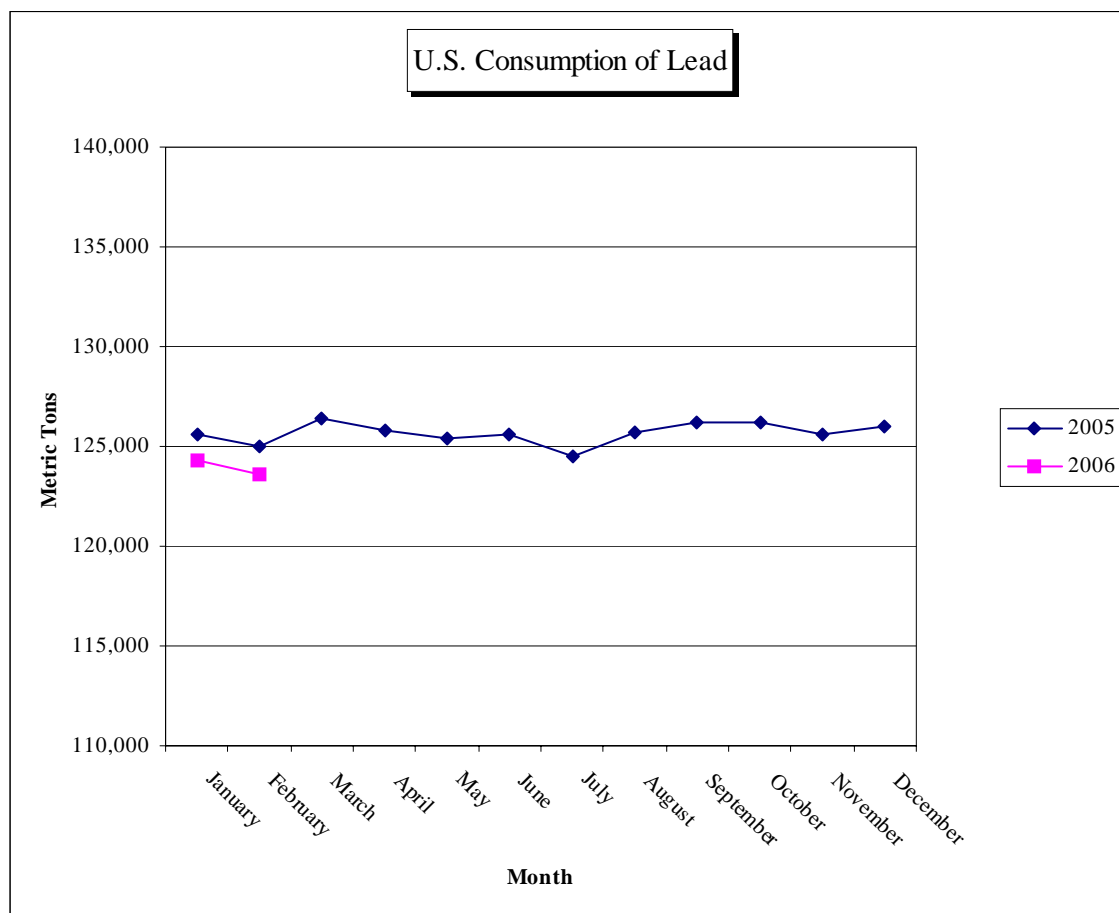


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF
LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	January 31, 2006	receipts		February 28, 2006
Soft lead	33,800 ^r	66,500	66,800	33,400
Antimonial lead	9,270 ^r	40,100	36,300	13,100
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	59,300	123,000	120,000	62,800

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons)

	2005		2006
	December	Year	January
Lead content:			
Ore and concentrates	11,500	390,000	19,900
Bullion	23	198	25
Materials excluding scrap	7,400	64,600	5,110
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	30	1,270	44
Total	18,900	456,000	25,100
Gross weight: Scrap	5,110	67,300	8,240

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF LEAD BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports				Imports for consumption			
	2005			2006	2005			2006
	Year	January	December	January	Year	January	December	January
Base bullion:								
Canada	18	--	--	--	18	--	--	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	10	2	--	--	10	2	--	--
Total	29	2	--	--	29	2	--	--
Pigs and bars:								
Australia	19,300	--	--	226	39,600	--	--	226
Canada	190,000	17,200	18,700	21,500	190,000	17,200	18,700	21,500
Mexico	15,200	247	1,070	753	15,200	247	1,070	753
Peru	23,900	949	1,510	3,590	23,900	949	1,510	3,590
Other	28,300	42	4,110	4,650	29,000	42	4,110	4,650
Total	277,000	18,500	25,400	30,700	298,000	18,500	25,400	30,700
Grand total	277,000	18,500	25,400	30,700	298,000	18,500	25,400	30,700

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.